

Amendment  
Serial No. 09/191,708  
Page 7

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 11, beginning with line 22 and ending with line 27, the paragraph beginning "The input data bits..." and ending "... time slot number." has been replaced with:

B2  
(Previously Amended) The input data bits of the illustrative embodiment can be represented by a matrix such as shown in figure 6, in which each row represents a rail and each column represents a time slot. Each incoming STS-1 signal's data bit may be placed by a rail number and a slot number. Such a matrix will be referred to hereinafter as an input bit map. Similarly, the switches output may be represented by an output bit map in which each outgoing STS-1 channel is identified by an outgoing rail number and time slot number. A physical embodiment for the input and output bit maps may be realized by employing a selection block, 701, as in Fig. 7, for each of the seven hundred and sixty eight input or output data bits of the illustrative embodiment.